

Notice of Public Meeting of a Public Body

Sections 7.6, 7.7.4 and 7.9.1

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE – Governor's Forest Health COUNCILS

Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431, notice is hereby given to the members of the Forest Health Advisory & Oversight Councils and to the general public that the **Forest Health Advisory & Oversight Councils** will hold a meeting open to the public:

Thursday, March 1, 2007 – 9:30 am – 12:00 am
County Supervisors Association –
1905 West Washington Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ

Please note that this is a change in the regular meeting schedule

- 1) Call to order-
- 2) Review and approve minutes for 2.1.07 – minutes approved
- 3) Subcommittees
 - a. Reports
 - i. Mapping & Assessment - Barron Orr
Arizona Fire Map is fully functional
No other reports
 - ii. Policy - Lori Faeth
Three bills that reflect Council recommendations were introduced at the State Legislature. The legislation covers: a tax credit for red fuels; establishment of the Community Wildfire Protection Initiative and a Requirement for the State Fire Marshall to adopt a state wildland urban interface code. No action has been taken on these bills. Action was taken on Senate Bill 1607, to provide more flexibility for carryover to be used to pay back fire fighting costs.
 - iii. Utilization & Commerce - Steve Gatewood
This group has not been convened. However, members are participating in the design of a collaborative process that will first identify the amount of wood supply available for utilization in Arizona and then create recommendations for sustainable uses.
March 8, 2007, Dr. Lay Gibson will provide an update of the economic activity associated with the stewardship contract in Springerville.
 - iv. Zoning & Implementation - Mayor Joe Donaldson
No report
 - v. Education - Michael Neal
Arizona Fire Prevention and Wildfire Academy will be held again this year in Prescott during the third week of March.
No report
 - vi. 20 Year Strategy- Ethan Aumack
The Strategy is still in draft form and has a length of 130 pages, it is now 80-95 % completed. Ethan started by opening up the table for a final discussion regarding the added changes since the last meeting including recommendations, landscape, informal consent from the council members and preparing a finalized formal endorsement to be completed by March. The draft includes over 100 recommendations.
- 4) Presentation: Protecting the Community from Wildland Fire in New South Wales, Australia – Keith Harrap, Assistant Commissioner, NSW Rural Fire Service, Sydney, Australia. www.rfs.nsw.gov.au
New South Wales, Australia has a "Safe in the Place" strategy for reducing the risk of communities to wildfire. They have progressively implemented regulations and incentives that lead to private action to reduce fuels. They measure success by comparing the number of houses threatened versus those burned and saved. One part of the program is to map areas that are fire prone. They also assign risk level. Modern subdivisions are buffered from bush lands and building codes are serious and enforced. Insurance companies pay for fire protection.

- 5) Discussion of proposed changes to the Executive Order establishing the Councils- Lori Faeth
Lori is working on a new Executive Order that will combine the Councils and the central role of the Councils will be to implement and monitor the Twenty Year Strategy.
- 6) Review and Discussion of the 20 Year Strategy-Ethan Aumack
The goal of the document is to articulate a strategic approach to forest restoration. It needs to be a consensus based document focusing on the overall content, not specific words. Tom O'Halleran believes this is a great piece of work and a great opportunity for public knowledge, but from a political view point, there are some issues that need to be fixed and/or included. Topics like global warming should be addressed without focusing on blame; there should be more discussion on watersheds and it all should be presented with a great sense of urgency. The document should avoid blaming or upsetting any particular interest group. Cooperation should be urged. In addition, emphasis is needed on what is in the best interest for our forest, not the cost.

The group went through the document during the afternoon. A vote was taken at the end of the meeting to see test if the strategy was supported by the members present in the room. There was no dissention.

- 7) Call to the Public –no comment
- 8) Next meeting April 12th.
Adjourn 2:01p

Dated this January 11, 2006 - Governor's Forest Health Councils

CO-CHAIRS

Forest Health Advisory Council
Ethan Aumack-Grand Canyon Trust
Wally Covington- Ecological Restoration Institute, NAU

<http://www.governor.state.az.us/FHC/>

Forest Health Oversight Council
Tom O'Halleran – Arizona House of Representatives
Diane Vosick – Ecological Restoration Institute, NAU